April 10, 1825

Tired and worn out, the oxen lay to rest. We have traveled three-hundred miles today and many more miles lay ahead tomorrow. Today has been a long day and the weather has not helped the cause. It has rained almost throughout the whole day and this has made travel slow because the oxen are having trouble tracking their hooves on the slippery ground. The weather has made the oxen get tired much quicker. This rain has been falling for almost two whole weeks now. This rain has slowed our travel down by almost five-hundred miles. We have been traveling for two months now so we should be at Middle Crossing, but we are at the Cimarron Cutoff. A big decision lies ahead whether we should go up north through the mountains or just keep going straight.

We are traveling with three other families: the Jefferson’s, the Allen’s, and the Wilson’s. Eight Adults are with us and five children all under the age of twelve are with us. We have not lost anybody due to sickness, but one of the Jefferson boys happened to get sick because he ate a bad piece of meat. This hurt our travel because he is a big help with the hunting and without him we had trouble gathering food. It took him two weeks to fully recover. We are traveling by wagon and I feel that this is the fastest way to travel. We have two wagons and each wagon has two families. The wagons have stayed pretty stable besides that time a couple of weeks ago. It was late at night and we were almost done with our traveling for the day when we hit a rock and the wheel fell off. We spent all night trying to fix the wagon’s wheel and it was painful. We ended up using weeds to tie around the wheel to attach it back to its axle.

We had a run in with the Indians and we found them very helpful. When we first saw them we were scared because others told us they were mean. The Indians offered us food and they showed us some hunting tips. They also taught us how to build a fire. The Indians gave us pounds of bacon and pork that saved us from a day’s worth of hunting. We are very thankful for the kindness of the Indians. The weather has been good to us. Besides these two weeks of rain. We have not encountered any other problems with the weather. When we first sent off in February we expected some snow, but we didn’t get any. The plants around us are starting to blossom and this is a big advantage because before we could not eat any plants.

We eat about three times a day. We eat early in the morning, late in the afternoon, and after sundown, after we are done traveling. We wake up about 7:00 A.M. and then we eat breakfast and around 8:00 A.M. we set off for the day. For breakfast we usually have leftovers from last night’s dinner and we have rice. Around 2 P.M. we make a quick stop for a quick lunch. We usually have a light lunch. We usually eat beans and coarse rice. Our journey for the day ends around 9 P.M. and then we eat a big dinner. The men go out to hunt and they usually come back with pork and bacon. The men’s job is to hunt for the food and the women’s job is to gather seeds and plants. Also, the women are supposed to take care of the sick and the children. The children are to help with both the hunting and the gathering and whatever tasks they can do.

Right now it is just about time to go to bed and the rain has stopped! Everyone is happy and ready for our long journey ahead. The oxen have rested so they should be ready for the trip to come. The families have gotten together and we have decided to go straight through the Cimarron Cutoff because we need to make up some time. Hopefully we have made the right choice.

By: Joey G.